

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
)
Teresio SIGNAROLDI et al.) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)
Application No.: 10/031,411) Examiner: Unassigned
)
Filed: January 18, 2002)
)
For: IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING)
TO UNDERWATER PIPE-LAYING)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

DE 1 625 957 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 3,266,256 and U.S. Patent No. 3,389,563.

DE 2 118 360 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 3,680,322.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a prior art search has been made.

In addition, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that each of the references submitted herewith is in fact prior art with respect to the present application, or that each of the references is considered to be material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

The documents are being submitted within 3 months of the filing and before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or certification is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: April 18, 2002

By: William C. Rowland
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620